

REMARKS

These Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed November 10, 2004. Claims 8, 10 and 11 have been amended, and no claims have been deleted or newly added, such that claims 1-20 remain pending. All claims are provided above for the Examiner's convenience.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8, 10 and 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because "the interface connector" and "the cover" lacked antecedent basis. Claims 8, 9 and 10 have been amended to overcome these problems. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 0 760 510 (hereinafter "the EP document").

Claim 1 recites, among other limitations, "a flex printed circuit board assembly." The Office action states on page 3 that the EP document discloses a flex printed circuit board (21). However, while element 21 is a circuit board (see, e.g., col. 8, line 5), the EP document clearly does not disclose it to be a flex circuit board as required by claim 1. Because the EP document does not disclose each and every claim limitation, a case of anticipation has not been made out here. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from allowable claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the EP document in view of U.S. Patent 6,243,262 to Koo (hereinafter "Koo").

As stated above with respect to claim 1, the EP document does not disclose a flex printed circuit board. Koo does not remedy this deficiency, nor does the Office attempt to assert that it does so. As such, claim 3 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 1.

Claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the EP document in view of U.S. Patent 6,678,112 to Kaneko (hereinafter "Kaneko").

Like claim 1, independent claims 12 and 16 require "a flexible printed circuit." Again, the EP document does not disclose a flexible printed circuit as alleged by the Office. Now the Office asserts that Kaneko teaches modifying the EP device by adding a stiffener. However, Kaneko does not describe any motivation for providing a stiffener for a rigid printed circuit board, as such boards do not typically require stiffening. Moreover, even if Kaneko's stiffener were added to the EP circuit board, the resulting device would still not include a flexible circuit and could therefore not be reasonably be said to render the device of claims 12 and 16 obvious. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 12 and 16 are respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7, 9 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 13-15 depend from claim 12 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Conclusion

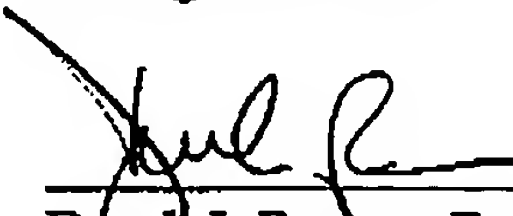
For these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. In addition, the present invention as claimed is not taught by the prior art of record or any combination thereof. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is not satisfied, but minor changes would apparently put the present case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Seagate Technology LLC
(Assignee of the Entire Interest)

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Date


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